Permanent seat in UN Security Council

1686. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has not been able to get a permanent seat in UN Security Council;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the hurdles or impediments in this regard and how they are proposed to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) India considers the reform and expansion of the UN Security Council as central to the process of United Nations reform, which has been ongoing for some years. This reform of the Security Council should encompass its expansion, both in permanent and non-permanent categories, as well as improvement in its working methods. The Government continues to actively pursue this issue, including through coordination and engagement with Brazil, Germany and Japan, otherwise known as the G-4 group. India is next participating in a debate in the plenary of the UN General Assembly on December 11,2006 on the issue of UN Security Council Reform. The object is to keep the focus at the United Nations on this vital issue, while developing a model of UNSC reform that has wide support and acceptance. So far, the progress in this direction has been satisfactory. In this context, there has been a widespread and growing appreciation of India's strong credentials to become a permanent member of the Security Council and a steady accretion of support for its aspirations.

Discussion with President of China

†1687. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the discussion with the President of China regarding retrieving the Indian land from China's possession; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the said issue is neither included in the priority list with Government nor any concrete step has been taken in this regard?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.